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WASHINGTON

IMPEACHED AGAIN

Out of sight: Trump stands largely silent, alone during hearing as some in GOP turn against him

By Jonathan Lemire, Jill Colvin and Zeke Miller
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » His place in the history books rewritten, President Donald Trump endured his second impeachment largely alone and silent.

For more than four years, Trump has dominated the national discourse like no one before him. Yet when his legacy was set in stone Wednesday, he was stunningly left on the sidelines.

Trump now stands with no equal, the only president to be charged twice with a high crime or misdemeanor, a new coda for a term defined by a deepening of the nation's divides, his failures during the worst pandemic in a century and his refusal to accept defeat at the ballot box.

Trump kept out of sight in a nearly empty White House as impeachment proceedings played out at the heavily fortified U.S. Capitol. There, the damage from last week's riots provided a visible reminder of the insurrection that the president was accused of inciting.

Abandoned by some in his own party, Trump could do nothing but watch history unfold on television. The suspension of his Twitter account deprived Trump of his most potent means to keep Republicans in line, giving a sense that Trump had been defanged and, for the first time, his hold on his adopted party was in question.

He was finally heard from hours after the vote, in a subdued video that condemned the insurrection at the Capitol and warned his supporters from engaging in any further violence. It was a message that was largely missing one week earlier, when rioters marching in Trump's name descended on the Capitol to try to prevent Congress from certifying Joe Biden's victory.

"I want to be very clear: I unequivocally condemn the violence that we saw last week," Trump said.

He added that "no true supporter" of his "could ever endorse political violence."

But that message, partially motivated to warn off legal exposure for sparking the riot, ran contrary to what Trump has said throughout his term, including when he urged his supporters to "fight" for him last week. Trump said not a word about his impeachment in the video, though he complained about

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YOUTUBE SCREENGRAB VIA THE WHITE HOUSE

President Donald Trump, hours after the House vote Wednesday, condemned last week's insurrection at the Capitol and warned his supporters against engaging in further violence.

"Mob violence goes against everything I believe in and everything our movement stands for. ... No true supporter of mine could ever disrespect law enforcement."

— President Donald Trump

U.S. House:

Ten Republicans join Dems in charging president with incitement of insurrection

By Lisa Mascaro, Mary Clare Jalonick, Jonathan Lemire and Alan Fram
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » President Donald Trump was impeached by the U.S. House for a historic second time Wednesday, charged with "incitement of insurrection" over the deadly mob siege of the Capitol in a swift and stunning collapse of his final days in office.

With the Capitol secured by armed National Guard troops inside and out, the House voted 232-197 to impeach Trump. The proceedings moved at lightning speed, with lawmakers voting just one week after violent pro-Trump loyalists stormed the U.S. Capitol, egged on by the president's calls for them to "fight like hell" against the election results.

Ten Republicans fled Trump, joining Democrats who said he needed to be held accountable and warned ominously of a "clear and present danger" if Congress should leave him unchecked before Democrat Joe Biden's inauguration Jan. 20.

Trump is the only U.S. president to be twice impeached. It was the most bipartisan presidential impeachment in modern times, more so than against Bill Clinton in 1998.

The Capitol insurrection stunned and angered lawmakers, who were sent scrambling for safety as the mob descended, and it revealed the fragility of the nation's history of peaceful transfers of power. The riot also forced a reckoning among some Republicans, who have stood by Trump throughout his presidency and largely allowed him to spread false attacks against the integrity of the 2020 election.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi invoked Abraham Lincoln and the Bible, imploring lawmakers to uphold their oath to defend the Constitution from all enemies, foreign "and domestic."

She said of Trump: "He must go, he is a clear and present danger to the nation that we all love."

Holed up at the White House, watching the proceedings on TV, Trump later released a video statement in which he made no mention at all of the impeachment but appealed to his supporters to

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Pelosi

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Slight dip seen in COVID-19 hospitalizations

By Deepa Bharath
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Southern California on Wednesday got some respite from the coronavirus surge in the form of slight declines in hospitalizations even as counties are ramping up large sites to speed up vaccination efforts.

Also Wednesday, state officials announced that people 65 and over will be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine sooner than had previously been planned. Under new state guidelines, once health care professionals and nursing home residents receive their vaccines, people 65 and older will be next in line. The state also is setting up a system by next week to let people know if they are eligible to receive a vaccine, and if not eligible, to register for a notification via email or text when they are.

Meanwhile, in the Inland Empire, as well as in Los Angeles County, health officials are still reporting case increases after the holidays.

San Bernardino County recorded 4,915 new cases and one death on Wednesday. The county is still looking at about a 24.1% increase in cases over the past 14 days.

Hospitalizations increased slightly Tuesday to 1,703, compared with 1,692 the day before. Also, on Tuesday, 347 people with the virus remained in county intensive

care units. As of Tuesday, San Bernardino County had received 75,900 first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and had administered 38,770, according to spokesman David Wert. The county also has received 43,625 vaccines for second doses, he said.

Coronavirus cases in Riverside County continued to climb Wednesday after the county saw its biggest one-day increase the day before. On Tuesday, county officials reported 11,552 new coronavirus cases, the biggest one-day jump ever. Hospitalizations, however, dropped slightly to 1,636. That number includes 363 patients in ICUs.

The county also reported Wednesday

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SB COUNTY

State high court tosses stay-home order lawsuit

By Steve Scauzillo
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The California Supreme Court on Wednesday denied San Bernardino County's petition to overturn the state's current stay-at-home order, court records show.

Reasons for rejecting the county's petition were not given.

The ruling was decided by five members of the seven-member court, with Associate Justices Goodwin H. Liu and Martin J. Jenkins recusing themselves.

The county filed a lawsuit Dec. 14 arguing the order — intended to slow the spread of the coronavirus by banning all gatherings except protests and religious services, closing many types of businesses and halting outdoor dining at restaurants — was illegal and an abuse of power.

"I am surprised we didn't get some kind of legal opinion," county Supervisor Curt Hagman said Wednesday.

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